



**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application No.: 10/735,305  
Filing Date: December 11, 2003  
Applicant: S. Zdravkovic et al.  
Group Art Unit: 3679  
Examiner: E. Garcia  
Title: SELF-PIERCING FASTENING SYSTEM  
Attorney Docket: 0275M-000786

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Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

**ELECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §121**

Sir:

In response to the Restriction dated April 22, 2005, Applicants' representative hereby provisionally elects Group II, Claims 30-48, for further prosecution. This election is made with traverse and reconsideration is respectfully requested, especially to combine claim Groups I and II in light of the preliminary amendment. No undue burden is believed to be placed on the Examiner to search and examine both claim Groups due to their overlap.

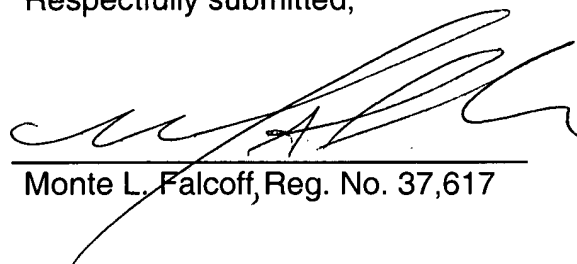
Furthermore, the Examiner's non-entry of the previously filed Preliminary Amendment is respectfully challenged as being improper under 37 C.F.R. §1.115(b)(1) and M.P.E.P. §714.03(a). Notwithstanding, entry of the Resubmission of Preliminary

Amendment filed herewith is respectfully requested. It is believed that Claims 1-29 now fall with Group II.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: May 16, 2005

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Monte L. Falcoff', written over a horizontal line.

Monte L. Falcoff, Reg. No. 37,617

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